



ALEXANDRIA, V.A.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 1874

## Recovery and Restoration of Part of the Custis Estate to the Lee Family.

As stated in yesterday's Gazette, a decision was rendered, and judgment given by Judge Hughes in the United States Court, in an action of ejectment, brought by G. W. Custis Lee vs. Azro Chase, for the recovery of the "mill property" on Four Mile Run, devised by the late G. W. Parke Custis to Mrs. Gen. Lee for life; remainder to G. W. C. Lee, which property had been purchased during the war at a sale for taxes due to the United States by the defendant in the cause.

The finding of the court, and the judgment rendered, were as follows, and were based upon the late decision of the U. S. Supreme Court in the case of Tacy vs. Mary Irwin and others, to be reported in the 18th volume of Wallace's reports:

And now at this day, to wit: the 7th day of July, 1874, the issues of fact in this cause having been tried and determined by the Court without the intervention of a jury, pursuant to the order of the Court, in writing duly read and filed, the Court makes the following findings upon the facts. Long prior to December, 1857, Geo. W. P. Custis was seized in fee of the tract of land in the declaration mentioned; that by his last will and testament an office copy of which is herein inserted, to wit:

"In the name of God, Amen, I, George Washington Parke Custis, of Arlington, in the county of Alexandria, and State of Virginia, being sound in body and mind, do make and ordain this instrument of writing as my last will and testament, revoking all other wills and testaments whatsoever.

"I give and bequeath to my dearly beloved daughter and only child, Mary Ann Randolph Lee, my Arlington House estate, in the county of Alexandria, and State of Virginia, containing eight hundred acres, more or less, and my mill on Four Mile Run, in the county of Alexandria, and the lands of mine adjacent to said mill, in the counties of Alexandria and Fairfax, in the State of Virginia, the use and benefit of all just mentioned, during the term of her natural life, together with my horses and carriages, furniture, pictures and plate, during the term of her natural life.

"On the death of my daughter, Mary Ann Randolph Lee, all the property left to her during the term of her natural life, I give and bequeath to my eldest grandson, George Washington Custis Lee, to him and his heirs forever, he my eldest eldest grandson, taking my name and arms.

"I leave and bequeath to my four granddaughters, Mary Anna, Agnes and Mildred Lee, to each ten thousand dollars, to be paid to them at the age of twenty years.

"I give and bequeath to my second grandson, William Henry Fitzhugh Lee, when he shall be of age, my estate called the White House, in the county of New Kent, and State of Virginia, containing four thousand acres, more or less, to him and his heirs forever.

"I give and bequeath to my youngest grandson, Robert Edward Lee, when he is of age, my estate in the county of King William, and State of Virginia, called Romancoke, containing four thousand acres, more or less, to him and his heirs forever.

"My estate of Smith's Island at the capes of Virginia, and in the county of Northampton, I leave to be sold, to assist in paying my granddaughters' legacies, to be sold in such manner as may be deemed by my executors to be most expedient.

"Any and all lands that I may possess in the counties of Stafford, Richmond and Westmoreland, I leave to be sold to aid in paying my granddaughters' legacies.

"I give and bequeath my lot in square No. 21, Washington city, to my son, Robert E. Lee, to him and his heirs forever.

"My daughter, Mary A. R. Lee, has the privilege by this will of dividing my family plate among my grandchildren; but the Mount Vernon altogether, and every article of furniture relating to Washington, that came from Mt. Vernon, is to remain with my daughter at Arlington House, during said daughter's life, and at her death to go to my eldest grandson, George Washington Custis Lee, and to descend from him entire and unchanged to my latest posterity.

"My estates of the White House, in the county of New Kent, and Romancoke, in the county of King William, both being in the State of Virginia, together with Smith's Island, and the lands I may possess in the counties of Stafford, Richmond and Westmoreland, the legacies to my granddaughters being paid, to be worked, to raise the aforesaid legacies to my four granddaughters, to be paid to them at the age of twenty years, and my estates that are required to pay the legacies being clear of debt, then I give freedom to my slaves; the said slaves to be emancipated by my executors in such manner as they may deem most expedient and proper; the said emancipation to be accomplished in not exceeding five years from the time of my decease.

"I do constitute and appoint as my executors, Lieutenant Colonel Robert Edward Lee, Robert Lee Randolph, of Eastern View; Right Reverend Bishop Meade, and George Washington Parke.

"This will, written by my own hand, is signed, sealed and executed the twenty-sixth day of March, eighteen hundred and fifty-five.

[SIGNED] GEORGE WASHINGTON PARKE CUSTIS.

"WITNESSES:

"MARTHA CUSTIS WILLIAMS.

"W. BUENNE WEBSTER."

The said tract of land was devised to his daughter, Mary Ann Randolph Lee, during the term of her natural life, and on her death was devised to his eldest grandson, G. W. Custis Lee, the plaintiff in this case, and to his heirs forever; that the said Mary Ann Randolph Lee departed this life on the 5th of November, 1873; that said last will and testament was admitted to probate in the county court of Alexandria, Virginia, on the 7th day of December, 1873, as appears by the copy of certificate of the clerk of said court.

"At a county court held for Alexandria county on the 7th day of December, 1873, the foregoing paper writing, purporting to be the last will and testament of George Washington Parke Custis, was produced in court for probate by Robert E. Lee, one of the executors named therein, and Cassius F. Lee was sworn as a witness, who deposed that he is well acquainted with the handwriting of George W. P. Custis, and that he verily believes the whole of said paper writing, together with the signature thereto, to be the genuine handwriting of said George W. P. Custis. Robert E. Lee, one of the executors named in the last will and testament of George W. P. Custis, qualified and gave bond with security according to law, the security having justified.

Teste: "B. H. BERRY, Clerk."

On the 11th day of January, 1864, the said premises in the declaration mentioned were sold under United States Direct Tax Commissioners for Virginia, appointed under the act of Congress approved June 7th, 1862, entitled "An act for the collection of the direct tax in insurrectionary districts within the United States, and for other purposes, and amendments thereto."

The said property was sold by said commissioners as land liable to be sold under the provisions of the 7th section of said act, because the direct tax imposed upon said property by the act of August 5, 1861, imposing a direct tax, had not been paid.

The property was purchased at said sale by Geo. W. Chase, since deceased, leaving the defendant his sole heir at law, at the price of four thousand one hundred dollars, who received

from said commissioners a certificate of sale, in the words and figures following:

(See certificate herewith annexed.)

Before the commencement of this suit, and prior to January 1, 1874, under and by virtue of said certificate of sale, and as heir at law of G. W. Chase, the said defendant entered upon and now holds the said property.

The said tax commissioners entered upon the discharge of their duties in the city and county of Alexandria, Va., in the month of June, 1863, and since that date, September, 1873, they have collected the amount of the said direct tax chargeable respectively upon the several lots and parcels of ground in said city and county, including the property in controversy in this cause.

On the 11th of September, 1863, they caused to be inserted in a newspaper published daily in Alexandria, Va., the following notice:

Notice to owners of real estate.

The undersigned commissioners hereby give notice that they will be ready at their office, corner of Washington and Prince streets, Alexandria, on and after the 14th of September next, to receive the direct tax assessed and fixed by them on the lots and tracts of land in the city and county of Alexandria, under and by virtue of an act of Congress entitled "An act for the collection of direct taxes in insurrectionary districts within the United States, and for other purposes."

Office hours from 8 o'clock a. m. to 2 p. m. JOHN HAWTHORNE, W. G. BOYMAN, G. F. WATSON, Commissioners.

The said commissioners, in performing their duties under the said act of June 7, 1862, did not, at any time or in any case, make or cause to be made any demand for the payment of the tax, either upon the owner or occupant of the property respectively liable therefor, or upon any person whatever, and they made no effort in any case, of any kind whatever, to collect said tax, before proceeding to a sale of the land, except the publication of the said notice of September 11th.

On the expiration of sixty days from the 14th of September, 1863, the said commissioners treated all of said property in said city and county on which the tax then remained unpaid, as forfeited to the United States, and liable to sale under said 7th section of said act of June 7, 1862, and they proceeded, from time to time, to advertise the same for sale accordingly.

Pending the advertisement of property for sale under said 7th section, said commissioners, pursuant to a general rule adopted by them to that effect, invariably refused, in all cases, to receive the tax upon property so advertised, unless tendered by the owner in his own proper person, and notwithstanding the tender of the tax by any agent, relative or friend of the owner, the commissioners, nevertheless, treated and sold the same as forfeited to the United States.

This rule and practice was established and followed by them, pursuant to instructions from some officer of the Treasury Department.

Applications were made to said commissioners by the agents and friends of the owners of the property advertised, and they were uniformly refused by the commissioners.

No note, record or memorandum of such applications was made or made by the commissioners, except such applications were frequent.

The premises in the declaration mentioned were sold as aforesaid by the commissioners without the knowledge or consent of the said Mary Ann R. Lee or of the said plaintiff, both of whom were a part of Alexandria, and within the Confederate military lines from May, 1861, until May, 1865, continuously, and were not within the said county during that time.

That the amount of the taxes, costs and penalties due upon the said land at the time of the sale to the United States, and the value of the property, together with interest, costs and expenses of sale, has been brought into court and deposited with the clerk of this court for the use of the United States, and the whole amount of which is seventy-five dollars and ninety-seven cents.

Wherefore it is considered by the Court that the plaintiff do recover of the defendant the premises in the declaration mentioned, d. according to the finding of the Court, and that no recovery also his costs by him about his suit in this behalf expended.

RO. W. HUGHES, Judge.

Alexandria, 7th July, 1874.

The counsel in the case were F. L. Smith for plaintiff and W. W. Willoughby for defendant.

The tract of land recorded in the foregoing case was devised by the following clause of Geo. W. Washington's will to Mr. Custis:

"Fourth—Vetted by the principal already mentioned, I give and bequeath to George Washington Parke Custis, the grandson of my wife, and my ward, and to his heirs, the tract of land I hold on Four Mile Run, in the county of Alexandria, containing one thousand two hundred acres, more or less, and my entire square, number twenty-one, in the city of Washington."

The tract was afterwards called by Mr. Custis Washington Forrest, and is known hereabouts as the Custis Mill Property.

It is but justice to Geo. Lee to state in connection with this case, that in the midst of the war he had executed the deeds of emancipation of the slaves referred to, the papers being drawn by Mr. F. L. Smith, in accordance with the will of Mr. Custis, and the slaves were all accordingly set free.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AFFAIRS.—The new District Commissioners had another long session yesterday, continuing their investigation into the affairs of the late District Government.

Telegrams were sent to Morton, Bliss & Co., the First National Bank of New York and other banks where loans had been hypothecated by the late District Government, notifying them to present their accounts for settlement.

It has been ascertained that it will require about \$225,000 to pay the interest due on the 1st instant, \$475,000 to redeem the securities pledged, and nearly \$600,000 to pay the clerical force and workmen of the late District Government, thus exhausting nearly all of the appropriation of \$1,300,000 made at the last session of Congress.

The Commission has promulgated a series of orders which will immediately effect the following changes in District offices and government:

First, the accounts and duties of the Auditor of the Board of Public Works are transferred to the Auditor of the District; those of the Assessor of the Board of Public Works are transferred to the Superintendent of Assessments and to the Collector of the District; the Assessor of the Board of Public Works having heretofore performed the duties both of assessment and collection of taxes for special improvements.

The books and accounts of the Treasurer of the Board of Public Works are transferred to the Comptroller of the District, and all moneys and securities now in the Treasury of the Board are directed to be deposited in the Treasury of the United States, subject to the order of the Commissioners. The surveyor and deputy, and inspector and tapper of water mains are placed under orders of the engineer of the Commission, Lieutenant H. C. United States Engineer Corps.

All other officers and employees of the Board of Public Works are discharged. These number 130, and include superintendents, assistant engineers, and clerks. A number of whom, however, are reappointed in the reorganization of the Engineer Department. The officers of Register and D. P. Register of the District are abolished, their duties being devolved on the present Comptroller of the District.

The offices and functions of public printer, three Deputy Collectors of Taxes, and Deputy Auditor are totally abolished. The office of Secretary and Treasurer of the Fire Department and of Public Schools are also abolished, and their duties, so far as they relate to disbursements, imposed on the Comptroller of the District. Care and supervision of all public buildings occupied by the District Government are committed to the Engineer of the Commission. No increase of compensation will be allowed to those officers on whom additional duties are imposed by these orders. The office

of Treasurer of the District of Columbia is abolished, the Commissioners intending to make the United States Treasury the depository of all funds coming into their possession.

Gen. Wm. Birney, of Philadelphia, is appointed Assistant District Attorney.

DEATH OF BISHOP WHELAN.—Right Rev. Richard Vincent Whelan, Catholic Bishop of Wheeling, W. Va., died in Baltimore yesterday at ten minutes to three o'clock p. m., in the 66th year of his age. Bishop Whelan was a native of Maryland, and was educated at Mount St. Mary's College. His earliest labors in the priesthood were performed in the neighborhood of Baltimore. Later in life he was active as a missionary priest in the South, and in 1841 was made Bishop of Richmond. Nine years later the See of West Virginia was created, and he was transferred to Wheeling, where he distinguished himself in building up the Church in that section. His remains will be taken to Wheeling.

Bishop Whelan was one of the most self-sacrificing men of his order anywhere. While not at all demonstrative in manner, he was enthusiastic in work, so kind of his own hands when necessary. It is related that when the new cathedral at Wheeling was built and no workman could be found willing to undertake the perilous task of erecting the cross on the spire, the bishop himself ascended to a little platform around the steeple near the top, and placed the large cross in the ball prepared for it. On one occasion in his earlier days, when a priest at Berkeley, a candidate for Governor on an electioneering tour meeting Father Whelan and not knowing him, asked who did the stone work of a new chapel near them. The answer was, "I did." "Who did the brick work?" Answer, "I did." "Who did the wood work?" "I did." "Who is the pastor?" "I am." Whereat the candidate for State honors presented the many-handed pastor \$50 for his church.

THE LABORERS PAY IN THE DISTRICT.

Congress at its late session appropriated \$225,000 for the payment of laborers. \$150,000 to those employed by the late Board of Public Works, and \$75,000 to those employed by contractors the whole number of laborers being 1,140. The Washington correspondent of the Baltimore Sun, says: "There is one very curious circumstance in connection with these wages. John Pope Hodnett represents that he is attorney for the entire 1,140 laborers, and that he has a contract with each one of them for twenty-five per cent. of the money respectively due them, and Hodnett gives out that his contract is such that he is entitled to receive and to retain his twenty-five per cent. before delivering the remainder to his alleged clients. The service claimed to have been rendered by him to his clients is having secured the passage of the appropriation by Congress, a statement which doubtless will surprise none more than the Congressmen who voted for the appropriation. Hodnett claims that of the \$225,000 his share is \$56,000, certainly a respectable fee in a tax-burdened District."

SMUGGLERS CAPTURED.—A Wilmington, Del., correspondent of the Baltimore American sends that paper an account of the capture of a regularly organized band of smugglers at Lewes, Del., yesterday, by government officers.

It is stated that for many years these men have been practicing their nefarious business, and that all previous efforts to break up their trade were so weak and nerveless as to amount to nothing practically. It is hinted that officers of the government have been in collusion with them and protected them. Six men were arrested and the specific charge against them is of smuggling sugar from the bark *Masonic* on June 1st. They were taken to Philadelphia, and there held for examination before the U. S. Commissioner.

THE ST. LOUIS BRIDGE.—The celebration of the completion of the bridge that spans the Mississippi at St. Louis, which occurred on the Fourth, was a grand pageant. The spans of the bridge are of steel and the piers of granite, and are higher than the tallest steeple of St. Louis, and planted in the deepest and most turbulent current of the Mississippi. This work has been five years in progress. The remarkable points about the massive viaduct are the depth of foundation, the width of the arches, and the novelty of construction. It accommodates two double tracks of steam railways, foot walks, street railways, and all styles of vehicles, one of which will interfere with the others, nor will the bridge interfere with navigation, for of the three arches the central one is 520 and the two side ones 500 feet.

THE INDIANS.—Dispatches announce that the Indians are again on the war path, and we have news of a very serious hostile outbreak of Cheyenne and Arapahoe Indians in Northeastern Texas and New Mexico. Some two thousand are said to be on the war path, murdering and plundering wherever they go, and some of them have fallen in their way have already been killed and scalped and their wagon trains burned. There seems to be no doubt of the aggravated character of the crime of the savages, and the Indian Agent in the vicinity of their reservation has made an urgent demand for troops to subdue them. In Minnesota a marauding party of Sioux have murdered a family and burned a settlement near Pembina.

THE RECIPROCITY TREATY.—The London Standard, reviewing the proposed reciprocity treaty between the United States and Canada, says it adopted it will establish a separate North American Zollverein in regard to all essential articles of trade between the States and the Dominion, excluding England from Canadian markets like a foreign and less favored nation. The Canadian frontier will be virtually obliterated, and absorption of the British North American provinces becomes only a question of time.

IRON AND COPPER.—Prof. Wm. M. Fontaine, professor of geology, mineralogy, and botany in the University of West Virginia, has been making an exploration of the mountain country some twenty miles west of Harrisonburg, Va. The professor states that a good quality of anthracite coal exists in the Little North mountains, in quantities sufficient to warrant investment, and that iron and copper are found in the same range across the North river.

FROM MEXICO.—The Galveston, Texas, News has a special from Brownsville, which says United States Consul Wilson, from Matamoros, states that the Legislature of Tamaulipas has reinstated Cortina as Mayor of that city. The news caused considerable excitement, and Cortina's friends are jubilant. Gov. Canales opposed the reinstatement of Cortina.

AN ADMISSION.—The Washington Chronicle admits that there is something wrong in the Republican government of South Carolina. It says: "It is a notorious fact that there exists a lamentable state of corruption among many of the present officers of that State, which is not creditable to either the party nominating or electing them."

## NEWS OF THE DAY

"To show the very age and body of the Times"

The efforts of the last eighteen years to deepen the channel from the Gulf to Corpus Christi Bay have at last proved successful, and steamers are now arriving regularly at the wharves of Corpus Christi, bringing and conveying full cargoes. Vessels drawing ten feet have no difficulty. The contractors for constructing the Corpus Christi and Rio Grande Railroad from the same place to Laredo arrived on Monday, and work will be commenced immediately.

The exports from Philadelphia during the past year amounted to \$33,000,000, of which \$23,000,000 were in foreign vessels and \$10,000,000 to American vessels. The exports include 87,000,000 gallons of petroleum, nearly 6,000,000 bushels of grain, cheese 1,300,000 pounds, oil cake 20,000,000 pounds; clearances of vessels, 1,222, including 481 American.

Dr. J. R. Jennings, a prominent physician of Nashville, Tenn., committed suicide at the hotel at Narragansett pier, Rhode Island, yesterday morning. His niece, a daughter of Governor Wise, of Virginia, was with him at the time.

The Spanish steamship *Tomas*, of 3,000 tons measurement and 355 feet in length, sailed from Baltimore yesterday with 2,600 tons of miscellaneous merchandise, being one of the largest cargoes ever shipped from that port.

The Western cities had the benefit of the tremendously hot weather yesterday. The thermometer marked 100 in Cincinnati, 95 in Chicago, and about the same figures generally throughout Ohio, Indiana and Illinois.

Recent advices from Japan inform us that after having paid the interest on the public debt, which amounts in round numbers to \$150,000,000, the Government held a balance in the Treasury of \$5,000,000.

The liquor dealers in New York propose to enter the field as a political force.

The crops of Northern Texas are very fine, and travel to that State is heavy.

## Proceedings of the French Assembly.

PARIS, July 7.—The Assembly to-day passed the Municipal Electoral Bill.

The Committee of Parliamentary Initiative has rejected La Rochefoucauld's monarchical proposition.

M. Buge's interpellation was postponed until to-morrow.

In furtherance of a plan to break up the coalition of the L. R. with the Legitimists, it was hoped that the report of the committee on La Rochefoucauld's proposition might be coupled with the interpellation to-morrow, as upon the former subject the two parties are wide apart.

The Assembly has postponed until to-morrow the debate on the interpellation in relation to suspension of L. Union.

The position of the Ministry becomes critical. The Moderate and Extreme Left, with 120 Legitimists, are now united against it.

It is understood that Raoul Duval, Monarchist, intends to move to-morrow that the National Assembly be dissolved.

The Judge who investigated the proceedings of the Central Bona-partist committee is reported to have applied to the Assembly for authorization to prosecute M. Roulier.

## Circus Riot.

ST. JOHNS, N. B., July 7.—A serious riot occurred in Fredericton last night, on the occasion of the performance of Lem's circus. A large number of lumber men were present, and some dispute, at the ticket office, on the subject of change, took place, which ended in the circus people drawing revolvers and firing among the crowd. This, instead of intimidating, only served to incense those present, and as fast as the wounded were carried away others took their place, until the circus people were overpowered, and some of their wagons were run into the river. At this time the riot assumed an alarming aspect. The fire bells were rung, and the mayor, with a body of special constables, hastily sworn in, after some trouble, succeeded in clearing the ground. Thirteen circus men were arrested.

It being rumored this morning that the circus was about to leave for St. Stephen, a large body of lumbermen assembled at the station, threatening to tear up the rails.

An injunction from the Supreme Court, however, being served in time, the circus was detained until a full investigation can be made. Much excitement prevails over the affair.

THE CROPS.—An intelligent and observant gentleman, who has visited every neighborhood in Bedford and Amherst counties within the last few days, states that with the best possible luck and management from this time forth, the planters cannot make half an average crop of tobacco; many of them will fail altogether for the want of plants and even the most fortunate are discouraged at the prospect. *Lynchburg Virginian*.

An Amherst farmer informed us yesterday that since last Wednesday the red rust and chinch bug have made their appearance in the oats, creating thorough and wide-spread destruction. Whole fields, which only a few days since, gave promise of an abundant yield, will now harvest literally nothing. Fears are also entertained that the chinch bug will attack the corn. *Lynch Rep.*

Jefferson county has produced this year more than 500,000 bushels of wheat of the best quality, according to the estimate of those competent to judge. In 1860 the yield was 422,514 bushels. The wheat has been gathered under the propitious skies, and there is not enough stored in the whole crop to offend the most sensitive.

WASHINGTON ITEMS.—Quite a number of Congressmen are still in Washington, seeking to get discharged clerks reinstated. They say that all the blame for the wholesale removals belongs to the House Appropriation Committee, which cut down the estimates and framed the law requiring the large reduction in the clerical force of the several departments.

Secretary Bristow is known to be opposed to allowing any syndicate to place the remainder of the funding loan abroad. He believes that it can be negotiated without the aid of a syndicate, thereby saving a large sum of money to the Government in the shape of commissions.

A new daily paper, to be called the Evening Mail, is to make its appearance on the 15th inst. It is going to try to be independent, with a leaning towards Democracy. The money is furnished by Democratic Congressmen.

It is given out that the President will appoint the new Minister to Russia at the next Cabinet meeting, which will be held next week.

THE WILSON SCANDAL.—The committee of Richmond clergymen who went to Danville to investigate the statement to the effect that Rev. Dr. Wilson used improper language in his recent address to the pupils of the Roonke Female College, have returned to Richmond and made their report, the concluding paragraph of which says:

"The object of our trip to Danville was simply to ascertain the identity of the address. The result of our investigation is this: That, beyond all question, the address read before the ministers who signed the card was the address delivered by Dr. Wilson before the Roonke Female College, and that it contained no indecent allusions or derogatory remarks."

The report is signed by Rev. J. L. Burrows and Alexander H. Sands.

## THE COURTS.

U. S. CIRCUIT COURT.—Judge Robert W. Hughes.—This court held a short session to-day, at which orders were entered in the following cases:

Casselman vs. M. Keley; j. c. men; case docketed, and judgment for plaintiff for recovery of property sold for U. S. taxes.

Turnbull & Co. vs. Thomas; in chancery. A decree was entered in this important case, involving a large sum, fixing Thursday, the 23d inst., as the time for argument.

W. D. Nutt vs. Catharine Turley et al.; judgment on agreed facts for plaintiff for recovery of a lot of land in Alexandria county, sold under the U. S. direct tax law.

J. L. Barbour vs. F. M. McCabe; in ejectment; judgment for plaintiff for recovery of property in Alexandria, sold under U. S. direct tax sale.

Newman vs. Chittenden; in ejectment; judgment for plaintiff for recovery of property sold under direct tax law, and for \$500 damages.

Lawrence B. Taylor vs. Chittenden and Chase; judgment for recovery of "Morven," a farm in Alexandria county, formerly owned by E. B. Powell; also for \$500 damages.

Beverly and Swanson, trustees, vs. Paris Sims; judgment for property on alley in rear of J. J. Wheat's residence, (late W. H. Fowle's) and \$180 mesne profits.

This and other cases of a similar character, decided at this term of the court, are in accordance with the principles decided by the Supreme Court of the U. S. in the case of Tacy vs. Irwin.

George W. Larkin, of Breunsville, Va., was admitted to practice in this court.

The petit jury in attendance upon the court was called, and there being no cases to try, were adjourned till to-morrow at 10 o'clock.

The grand jury returned into court and made the following presentments, viz:

U. S. vs. E. R. Taylor, of Culpeper; for mail robbery; a true bill.

U. S. vs. H. C. Yates, of Warrenton; for violation of the Internal Revenue law; a true bill.

U. S. vs. Carey Nutt, of Northumberland; for violation of postal laws; a true bill.

And the jury was then adjourned until to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock to consider of such other matters as may be brought before them.

The cases of Taylor and Nutt were continued for hearing until the 22d instant in this city.

The case of Yates will be taken up to-morrow.

## U. S. DISTRICT COURT.—Judge Robt. W. Hughes.

In re John A. Culley; deed executed by assignee to purchaser of real estate approved, and assignee ordered to have same recorded in Richmond Hustings Court.

In re George W. Sandy and John S. Sandy; order for sale of real estate of bankrupt.

W. H. Aldridge, assignee of Samuel Feltz, vs. Samuel Feltz; order modifying injunction of July 3d.

In re Wm. Embury; assignee's report of sale of real estate confirmed.

In re Madison F. Rollins; order for resale of real estate of bankrupt.

On motion of the District Attorney a capias to hear judgment was ordered to be issued against W. L. Long, convicted in May last, at Norfolk, of violation of the Internal Revenue laws, returnable at Richmond on the 16th inst.

THE FRENCH ASSEMBLY.—Many people read the telegraphic reports of proceedings in the French Assembly and become hopelessly confused when the dispatches are talking about the Left, the Right, the Right Centre and the Left Centre. By reference to the following explanation they may be able to acquire some knowledge of what is going on in that extraordinary body:

The L. R. is composed of the Republicans, of whom Leon Gambetta and Jules Favre are leaders.

The Extreme L. R. is Radical Republican, or Communist.

The Left Centre is made up of the Conservative Republicans—the men who are willing to accept a republic as the best practicable form of government. Thiers and